

REMARKS

Claims 18-33 are pending. New claim 33 is added. Support for the new claim is found in the specification and claims as originally filed. Applicants provisionally elect claims 20-32 (Group II) for examination based on the Restriction Requirement of September 15, 2006. No new matter is entered.

The Examiner has restricted the pending claims into two (2) groups which the Examiner contends are distinct inventions:

Group I: Claims 18-19, drawn to nucleic acids that hybridize to a region between D9S127 to D9S59 or D9S53 to D9S105; and

Group II: Claims 20-32, drawn methods for detecting a polymorphism linked to a familial dysautonomia gene.

In response to the Examiner's restriction, Applicants provisionally elect, with traverse, Group II for further prosecution in this application.

Applicants respectfully traverse the restriction requirement. The claims of Group I are directed to nucleic acid sequences capable of hybridizing to specific regions of the long arm of chromosome 9, and the claims of Group II are directed to methods of detecting the presence of several of the specific polymorphisms to which the claims of Group I are directed. Therefore, the claims of Group I and the claims of Group II can be searched together without any undue or serious burden to the Examiner.

Finally, Applicants reserve the right to timely file one or more continuation applications covering the non-elected claims.

CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims and allowance of this application.

AUTHORIZATION

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for consideration of this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 50-3732, Order No. 13572.105014.

In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. 50-3732, Order No. 13572.105014.

Respectfully submitted,
KING & SPALDING LLP

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By:


Kenneth H. Sonnenfeld

Correspondence Address:
KING & SPALDING LLP
1185 Avenue of the Americas
New York, NY 10036

Reg. No. 33,285
(212) 556-2100 Telephone
(212) 556-2222 Facsimile